

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1-30 have been rejected. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, and 12-30 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim 17 was objected to because of an informality. Claim 17 has been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 8-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the various use of parentheses, the phrase “e.g.”, and a trademark in the claims. The claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, and 8-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,754) in view of Oliver (“The WinFS File System for Windows Longhorn: Faster & Smarter”). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-30 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to synchronizing multiple instances of a data platform. The data platform is divided into change units, and the synchronization is based on changes that are sequentially enumerated and tracked on a per change unit basis. The prior art fails to disclose or suggest such features.

Peng is directed to the synchronization of servers and uses a summarizing version vector having fields that summarize the state of an object container at a server. As noted in the Office Action on pages 12-13 with respect to claim 9, Peng describes an atom, which is a unit of transmitted data corresponding to a differential update (column 4, lines 2-4). Although an atom is used in synchronization, it is based on object differences, and is unrelated to dividing a storage platform into change units. In Peng, there is no storage platform that is divided into change units.

Additionally, Peng fails to disclose or suggest that the synchronization is based on changes that are sequentially enumerated and tracked on a per change unit basis, as claimed.

As noted in the Office Action on page 13, Peng describes a summarizing version vector is examined at a second location to determine if a whole object or a portion of the object needs to be sent to the first location. According to Peng, this is accomplished by either defining a version vector to a whole object or defining a version vector to the base of an object and the update stamp for each of its differential updates.

The version vectors comprise update stamps, with each update stamp having a field for an object container's identifier and time stamp (column 3, lines 15-20, and 40-45). Although an object container has an identifier and time stamp, an object container is completely different from a change unit as claimed ("the storage platform divided into change units"). The same holds true for a version vector or update stamp of Peng, which are also completely different from the claimed change units. Therefore, there can be no tracking of changes on a per change unit basis in Peng.

Oliver fails to cure the deficiencies of Peng. Oliver generally describes WinFS for Windows Longhorn, but fails to disclose or suggest a data platform that is divided into change units, and synchronization that is based on changes that are sequentially enumerated and tracked on a per change unit basis. Oliver describes a cluster as the smallest possible storage unit on a hard drive, and describes cluster size, but such clusters are completely different from the claimed change units, and subsequently, there can be teaching or suggestion of tracking of changes on a per change unit basis in Oliver.

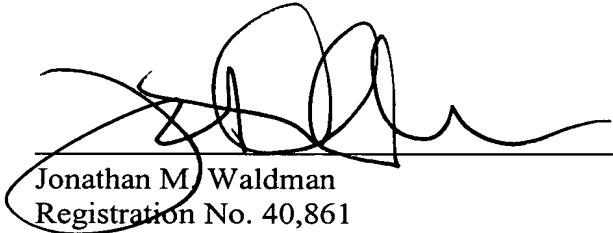
Independent claims 9, 13, 16, 24, and 28 recite similar features. Based on the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 13, 16, 24, and 28 should not be rejected as being unpatentable over Peng in view of Oliver. Thus, claims 1, 9, 13, 16, 24, and 28, along with their dependent claims, are patentable for the reasons set forth above. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), is respectfully requested.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2844/306723.01
Application No.: 10/692,515
Office Action Dated: June 6, 2006

PATENT

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Date: August 15, 2006



Jonathan M. Waldman
Registration No. 40,861

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439